# Annex 1 Overview of implementation at the action level

# Window 4: Competitiveness and inclusive growth

# Thematic Priority 1 Education, employment, social protection and inclusion policies, and health

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2017** | |
| **Action Document “EU Support for Education, Employment and Social Policy”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1 Strengthened sector governance, policy framework and statistics | Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making (service) | The contract was signed in 2019 and was completed in 2022. | | Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making (supply) | The contract was signed in 2021.  Supply for ESA was delivered as planned and partial provisional acceptance was signed.  Supply for MLSP: Pending provisional acceptance (The update of SIEM is ongoing. New version was installed with checks of all functionalities in progress). | | Development of new Education Management Information System (service) | The project is in the final stage of implementation. | | Strengthening the Social Dialogue (grant) | The contract was signed in 2018 and was completed in 2021. | | Output 4 Improved quality and availability of social services | Supporting modernization and de-institutionalization of social services (service) | The contract was signed in 2019 and ended in 2022. | | Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect” – TIMOR (grant)  Supporting the resettlement of persons with intellectual disabilities from the residential institution of Demir Kapija into community based supported living settings (grant)  Getting a Life – Deinstitutionalization of Residents of Demir Kapija (grant) | The Call for proposals for re-launched in 2019. Three grant contracts were signed and commenced in 2020. Their implementation ended in 2023. | | Support to social enterprises (service) | The contract was signed in 2020 and ended in 2023 | | Establishing support services for social enterprises (grants) | The Call for proposals was published in 2021, two contracts were signed in 2021 and ended in 2023. | | Combating discrimination by improving inclusiveness in compulsory education (grants) | The project is closed. | | Facilitating social inclusion of Roma (grants) | The Call for proposals was published in 2019, two contracts were signed in 2019 and ended in 2023. |   **Part of the AD under IMBC**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 2 Equitable access to quality inclusive education at all levels | Raising the quality of pre-school education and care (Service contract fee-based) | The contract was signed, and project started on 18 December 2019 and was implemented until 17 June 2022. The Addendum No. 2 was approved on 28 March 2023, which led to no-cost extension of the contract.  Administrative Order No. 3 for suspension of project implementation for 90 calendar days was issued as of 8 November 2023 by CFCD. | | Supervision of works-construction of kindergartens in Tetovo and Tearce (Service contract fee-based) | The contract was signed on 19 October 2021 and the commencement date was 1 December 2021. In June 2022, the Contractor submitted Request for Addendum for replacement of the Team Leader, but the Addendum was approved in January 2023. The project implementation was affected by the prolonged time for replacement of the Team Leader (e.g. the 1st and 2nd Interim Reports was submitted with delay), although backstopping assumed many of tasks. | | Construction of kindergarten in the Municipality of Tetovo (Works) | The contract was signed on 1 November 2021 and the commencement date was 2 December 2021.  Defect Liability Period is in progress. The Certificate for Provisional acceptance was issued by the Supervisor on 26 May 2023, without submitting approved project documentation stipulated under Works contract conditions. Supervisor submitted documentation on 26 June 2023, but by the end of the reporting period some documents were not completed yet, such as Warranties for equipment and Certificates of Origin of materials.  IPC 1, 2, 3 and 4 were approved by the Contracting Authority, while IPC 5 was subject to checks.  As per the IPC5, the percentage of realization of project activities related to the construction of the kindergarten was 100%.  The Contractor submitted Request for price change and time extension of the project activities in November 2022, which was not approved by the Contracting Authority. | | Construction of kindergarten in the Municipality of Tearce (Works) | The contract was signed on 1 November 2021 and the commencement date was 17 December2021.  The kindergarten facility was constructed, though some works have not been carried out yet. Provisional acceptance certificate can be issued as soon as all equipment and installations get tested and all documents are complete.  IPC 1, 2 3 and 4 were approved by Contracting Authority, while the revised IPC 5 is under check.  As per the revised IPC 5, the percentage of realization of project activities related to the construction of the kindergarten was 100%.  The Contractor submitted Request for price change and time extension of the project activities in November 2022, which was not approved by the Contracting Authority. | | Further support to the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework | The implementation of the project finished on 31.12.2024. The Final Report should be sent in the next period by the Twinning Partner. | | Improving quality of the education | Addendum No. 1 was approved in December 2023 to replace TL and KE2. At the moment, a new realistic Work plan is being prepared for implementation until November 2, 2024. | | Output 3 Improved employability and access to labour market and decent work | Increasing attractiveness, inclusiveness and relevance of VET and adult education | The implementation of the project is ongoing.  The request for Addendum No.2 for replacement of KE2 is under review by the Beneficiary Institution, MoES. | | Support to comprehensive and inclusive Adult Education system | Implementation is ongoing | | Improving the post-secondary education | Implementation is ongoing | | Alignment of the VET and adult education quality assurance systems with the EQAVET | All the activities are completed. | | Labour Market Activation of Vulnerable Groups (Direct grant to Employment Service Agency) | Project started on 20 September 2019.  The amendment of the contract was approved on 13 September 2022, which extended the duration of the project for additional 18 months (March 2024). Additionally, the scope of the target groups has been expanded, including: young people up to 29, women, Roma, long-term unemployed and persons with disabilities. Last but not least, a new pilot program, Second Chance was introduced. All measures are under implementation. The 3rd Interim report was approved.  In line with the conclusions of the 15th Steering Committee Meeting in December 2023, the Employment Service Agency submitted Request for Addendum no.2 for non-cost extension for additional seven months in order all of the activities to be completed and results achieved. | | Improving the working conditions (Service contract fee-based) | The Contract started on 18 November 2019 and implementation finished on 17 December 2023 as per the Addendum no.3 dated 8 March 2023 for replacement of the Team Leader/ Key Expert 1 and for no-cost extension.  Draft Final Report was presented in the 8th Project Steering Committee held on 12 December 2023. |   **Part of the AD under Indirect Management**   * Procurement and grant contracts have been concluded within 3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement. The contracting rate under the programme is 92%. * Forecast submitted and request of funds are similar. Around 67% of the Disbursement plan for 2023 has been realised (MoLSP 77% and MoES 56%). During 2023, CFCD submitted 9 Requests for Funds to the NAO Management Structure for the payments in the amount of 3.79 million EUR of IPA funds (with national contribution payments reach 4.06 million EUR). Currently, total disbursement rate under the programme is 64%.  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Total IPA funds available under AD** | **Contracted amount in 2023** | **Total IPA funds contracted until the end of 2023** | **Total IPA funds disbursed until the end of 2023** | **Remarks (e.g. deviation from plan)** | | 12,650,000 EUR | / | 11,676,622 EUR | 8,079,571 EUR | Out of contracted IPA funds, around 69% of IPA funds have been paid to the contractors. | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievement and assessment** | | Output 1 Strengthened sector governance, policy framework and statistics | Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making (service) | Several web services for inter-institutional data exchange were established, including the ones that facilitate the cooperation between employment and social services for activation of recipients of Guaranteed Minimum Assistance.  The HERMAK model was upgraded for long-term labour market forecasting by adding additional number of economic sectors. | | Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making (supply) | The equipment was installed and is in use by the beneficiaries (except for the log management system in the MLSP) | | Development of new Education Management Information System (service) | On January 30, 2024, the Ministry of Education and Science introduced the disc containing the data from the previous system, allowing the data migration to be completed as a final phase of the contract. Once the migration is completed, all data will be in one location. The software solution has been developed, as a final step the company will need to give the MoES the source code. As part of the project's sustainability, the Ministry of Education and Science issued a public call for a cloud platform to host its systems. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education and Science issued a public call for the establishment of an integrated computerised system for the administrative work of schools. | | Strengthening the Social Dialogue (grant) | The NESC capacity was strengthened though various trainings and analytical work, which played prominent role in the adoption of economic and reform measures at times of pandemic and after it.  Trade Unions and Employer’s organisations established number of new services and tools for their members. | | Output 2 Equitable access to quality inclusive education at all levels | Raising the quality of pre-school education and care (Service) | The project drafted proposals for amendments of the Child Protection Law and 17 by-laws which will modernise the framework for professional and career development of the pre-school staff. The legal package incorporates number of outputs developed, such as competences for pre-school staff, methodology for Professional and career development, procedures for accreditation of programs for professional development, and revised model of licencing of pre-school staff.  The project reached more than 2600 practitioners in the area of pre-school education and care, either through trainings or various consultations.  The project developed and tested programmes and plans for engagement of parents in pre-school education. 15 kindergartens were supported in establishing or improving the work of the counselling centres for parents, with a special focus on strengthening their capacities to work with parents of children with disabilities. | | Supervision of works-construction of kindergartens in Tetovo and Tearce | The supervisor approved four IPCs under each of the works contracts, issued Provisional Acceptance Certificate for the kindergarten in Tetovo | | Construction of kindergarten in the Municipality of Tetovo (Works) | The kindergarten was constructed, which will create a possibility for pre-school and care of about 165 pre-school children in this municipality. The municipality of Tetovo was advised to submit a request for formal opening of the facility as per the national legislation. | | Construction of kindergarten in the Municipality of Tearce (Works) | The kindergarten was constructed, which will create a possibility for pre-school and care of about 155 pre-school children in this municipality.  The municipality of Tearce shall request formal opening of the facility after the provisional acceptance. | | Activity 2.3 Further support to the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework | The achieved results of the project were: a revised framework for quality assurance in accordance with an inclusive approach based on evidence, recommendations for the development of higher education programs in accordance with the Bologna criteria and standards for ensuring quality education, further recommendations for improving the evaluation and accreditation processes , analyzes and instructions according to the criteria of the national qualification system EQAVET I ECVET, staff training through practical knowledge and expertise.  An efficient and applicable methodology has been developed with a manual for practical work related to ensuring the quality of qualifications and curricula, guidelines for the recognition of professional qualifications, guidelines and recommendations. A road map for further implementation and capacity building of the PRC through workshops, presentations and analyzes for fulfilling the criteria has also been developed.  Transparent and simpler procedures and methodologies have been developed with the aim of simplifying qualification standards, improved operational and administrative capacities and tools for visibility in 3 languages (leaflet "Discover the transformative power of NRC", video about NRC, banners and brochures NRC decade on progress) and an international conference on mobility was organized to mark 10 years of the National Framework of Qualifications.  Technical recommendations are given to achieve compliance with the registry of qualification data sets, as well as guidance for further use and maintenance of the NRC digital registry. | | Activity 2.4 Improving quality of the education | The project is in the early phase of implementation | | Output 3 Improved employability and access to labour market and decent work | Activity 3.1 Increasing attractiveness, inclusiveness and relevance of VET and adult education | **TASK 1: Mapping and review of VET delivery in the 5 regions with the aim to support implementation of the Concept note for establishment of Regional VET Centres**  Activity 1.1: Assessing and presenting options for the role of VET schools in the region   * Prepared 5 regional analytical reports for Skopje, East, Pelagonija, Southeast, and Vardar regions. * Conducted validation workshops for each region, with a total of 109 VET school representatives, MoES, and TAT participating. * Developed an overall analytical report for VET school rationalization, including regional comparative analyses and schools’ capacities analyses. * Selected Southeast and Vardar regions for establishing new RVETCs. * Proposed "Nikola Karev" VET school in Strumica and "Kole Nedelkovski" VET school in Veles as new RVETCs. * Submitted the final report to MoES on July 7th for governmental decision-making. * The Government of North Macedonia established two new RVETCs on November 7th, 2023.   Activity 1.5: Developing and delivering training programmes for VET school staff   * Workshops conducted in May 2023 with 61 participants from VET schools, companies, MoES, and TAT across 5 regions. * Training Needs Analysis (TNA) implemented and report prepared starting April 2023; findings based on 1,115 responses from 4 types of questionnaires targeting VET school teachers and directors. * Training delivery plan developed and validated by 41 key stakeholders and TAT representatives in August 2023. * Developed training materials for 2 out of 6 training programmes. * Delivered 2 training programmes: one for VET providers' principals/directors and one on pedagogical approaches. * Start-up trainings in September 2023 to assess training programmes' feasibility with 72 participants. * Developed 3 out of 6 training programmes by May 2023, with 2 delivered between October and December 2023: one for principals/directors (3 workshops, 97 participants) and one on pedagogical approaches (6 workshops, 134 participants). * Each training programme includes face-to-face training, self-preparation, and online training, totaling 14 academic hours, meeting the Bureau for Development of Education standards. * Remaining 4 training programmes to be developed and implemented by end of May 2024.   Activity 1.6: Strengthening capacities of municipal staff working on education (activity completed)   * Conducted workshops in February 2023 across all 8 statistical regions with 237 participants from municipalities, VET schools, companies, and TAT. * Distributed and collected TNA questionnaires during the workshops for analysis. * Prepared a TNA report based on the analysis of the collected questionnaires. * Developed two comprehensive documents: Guidelines and tools for municipal staff on VET stakeholder collaboration and a Capacity Building Training Plan (CPTP) with an e-learning component structured in 10 modules based on learning outcomes. * Validated the output in a June 2023 workshop with 27 representatives from municipalities, VET schools, MoES, MLSG, and TAT. * Delivered training workshops in all 8 statistical regions from June to November 2023, with 87 representatives of the target group participating.   **TASK 2: Implementation of the system for VNFIL in the country as an important path towards providing quality education for adults**  Activity 2.2: Developing procedures and tools for monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of AE and VNFIL   * Assessment Report: Evaluates current VNFIL system's state at policy and implementation levels. * Validation Focus Group Feedback: Report validated by a focus group with 11 QA-relevant institution representatives. * Adapted Peer Review Manual: Customized European Peer Review Manual for VNFIL, outlining detailed tasks and responsibilities. * Implementation Templates: Developed for each peer review phase to ensure thorough and professional execution. * Peer Review Toolkit: Comprises 8 templates to facilitate the peer review model's implementation. * Quality Assurance Guidelines and Tools: Offers comprehensive guidance for VNFIL procedures' quality assurance. * Standards and Follow-up Guidelines: Provides standards and guidelines for validation processes and follow-up measures at provider and institutional levels.   Activity 2.3: Reviewing and improving remedial education programmes and procedures for completion of education   * Review Report: A comprehensive analysis of the current state of remedial education, highlighting its ineffectiveness and the need for systemic revision. * Strategic Plan: A detailed plan with measures for improving remedial education at policy, program, and institutional levels, adapted to the country's context. * Validation Workshop: A workshop held in December 2023 to validate the proposed measures and strategic plan, involving 17 stakeholders in remedial education. * Comparative Analysis: An examination of remedial education models in ex-Yugoslav countries, focusing on the differences and potential best practices applicable to the local context. * Data Collection System Proposal: A proposed framework for developing a data collection system on remedial education delivery, including the creation of an e-platform and the identification of data sources and collection processes.   **TASK 3: Improving the system for post-secondary with newly developed curricula, in line with the labour market needs**  Activity 3.1: Developing road map, legal framework and financing mechanisms   * In-depth Analysis Report: Based on data from questionnaires with a 96% response rate from VET schools and interviews with representatives from PSE-related institutions, providing an overview of the current state of PSE in North Macedonia. * Roadmap for PSE Improvement: Outlines strategies for enhancing or developing conceptual documents, legal frameworks, and financing mechanisms for post-secondary education. * Action Plan: Part of the Roadmap, detailing specific activities for improving the PSE system and implementation strategies. * Stakeholder Engagement: Consultations through focus groups in all 8 statistical regions with 73 participants from PSE providers and companies to refine the Roadmap content. * Validation Workshop: Held in June 2023 with 46 representatives from PSE-related stakeholders to validate the developed outputs.   Activity 3.2: Developing two post-secondary education programmes and open them for applications NQF (activity under implementation, some outputs completed)   * Workshop Execution: Conducted across all 8 statistical regions from March to April 2023, with 195 participants from VET schools, companies, MoES, and TAT. * Data Collection: Information on the most demanded occupational profiles by employers was gathered during the workshops. * Occupational Selection: Based on the analysis, two occupations were selected for development of PSE programmes at level VB of the NQF: Specialist - Computer Administrator and Master of Crafts – Tailor of Female Clothes.   **TASK 4: Compatibility of the national system of VET and AE with the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET**  Activity 4.2: Delivering training programmes on QA and the selected EQAVET indicators (activity completed)   * TNA Questionnaires: Prepared and distributed 4 types of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) questionnaires tailored for each target group: VET system institutions, State Education Inspectorate (SEI), Regional Vocational Education and Training Centers (RVETCs), and VET schools, with 161 completed responses collected. * TNA Report: A comprehensive report prepared after analyzing the questionnaire results. * Training Program Development: Defined training methodology, content, and developed training materials along with evaluation questionnaires for each of the 4 target groups. The training was structured into two sessions: a general part and a specific part customized to the needs of each target group. * Training Delivery: Conducted 4 training sessions in November 2023 with 179 representatives from all target groups participating. * Evaluation Report: Collected participant feedback and prepared an evaluation report highlighting the training program's significant positive impact. * Recommendations: Provided actionable insights for policymakers, VET providers, and education inspectors to improve VET quality, aligning with EQAVET principles and promoting a holistic Quality Assurance (QA) approach. | | Activity 3.2 Support to comprehensive and inclusive Adult Education system | Activity 2.1: Implementation of the VNFIL system involving at least 5 qualifications selected from the NQF (activity under implementation, some outputs completed) Activity 2.2: Developing procedures and tools for monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of AE and VNFIL (activity completed) Activity 2.3: Reviewing and improving remedial education programmes and procedures for completion of education (activity completed) Activity 2.4: Developing and delivering training programmes on completion of compulsory education (preparation for implementation) | | Improving the post-secondary education | Activity 3.1: Developing road map, legal framework and financing mechanisms (activity completed, additional output under implementation) Activity 3.2: Developing two post-secondary education programmes and open them for applications NQF (activity under implementation, some outputs completed)  As e new Activvity is the development of the new concept for post-secondary education which started in September 2023. 2 Working groups (WG) were established – interinstitutional WG in which all relevant to the PSE topic institutions are presented and provider WG in which providers of PSE are participating. Expected delivery date of the output - February 2024 | | Alignment of the VET and adult education quality assurance systems with the EQAVET | All the activities are completed. Activity 4.1: Supporting the alignment of national system with the EQAVET (activity completed in 2022) Activity 4.2: Delivering training programmes on QA and the selected EQAVET indicators (activity completed) | | Labour Market Activation of Vulnerable Groups (Direct Grant to the Employment Service Agency) | A total of 4298 unemployed persons benefited some type of support under the project (60% women, 40% young, 10% Roma). About 38% of the participants were long-term unemployed and roughly same percent recipient of the GMA. Of them, 2076 made use of any of the new counselling and motivating services (psycho-social or mentorship support) that were tested during the project lifetime. 2222 participated in active labour market measures, such as vocational trainings, second chance education, internship or subsidised employment.  The project was instrumental to the implementation of the social protection reform in regards to the activation in the labour market of the recipients of guaranteed minimum assistance.  To this end, the project triggered new way of cooperation between the employment and social services. By 31 December 2023, 6452 Individual Plans for Activation were developed jointly by the social work centres and the employment centres for the recipients of the Guaranteed Minimum Assistance (GMA).  The project enabled testing of a new set of counselling and motivating services (psycho-social or mentorship support) to empower the hard-to employee individuals, such as GMA recipient to enter the labour market A new pilot measure, i.e., a Second chance programme for completion of secondary education. Important lessons were drawn on all legal and institutional changes that are further needed to make the activation effective. | |  | Improving the working conditions (Service fee- based) | The project contributed to the implementation of the National Informal Economy Strategy. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy was equipped with tools to measure and monitor the size and characteristics of the informal employment. Importantly, proposal of Law on simplified work engagement of workers performing seasonal, temporary and occasional work was drafted and since December 2023 it is in governmental procedure for adoption.  Legal and technical options for introduction of Workplace ID were prepared and are ready to be deployed in the construction sector provided the legal amendments get adopted.  Recommendations for regulation of parental leave were incorporated in draft new Labour law along with cost-benefit analysis to justify the changes. This was complemented with awareness raising campaign for changes in the regulation on parental leave, as well as involvement of men in the care work at home/family.  Finally, four private companies piloted flexible forms of work organization and received award for being family-friendly employers. | | Output 4 Improved quality and availability of social services | Supporting Modernization and De-Institutionalisation of the Social Services (Service fee-based contract) | The legal body regulating delivery of social services was completed with the setting standard bylaws for several social services, which were developed, published and are in force. A Guide was produced to steer potential social providers through the licensing process.  A comprehensive training programme and materials were produced and are available with the Institute for social affairs, for professional development and licensing of staff in the social work sector.  Reporting mechanisms and templates for social services providers were developed and piloted. They create ground for further strengthening of the monitoring system of social services. | | Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect” – TIMOR (grant)  Supporting the resettlement of persons with intellectual disabilities from the residential institution of Demir Kapija into community based supported living settings (grant)  Getting a Life – Deinstitutionalization of Residents of Demir Kapija (grant) | The projects contributed to the implementation of the Strategy on Deinstitutionalisation by establishing about 20 new services for supported living, thus allowing resettlement of about 100 (former) residents of the Special Institute in Demir Kapija. The services got licensed and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy assumed their financing after each of the contracts ended. | | Support to social enterprises (service) | The project supported operation of a Center for social enterprises in Skopje along with regional focal points. More than 40 trainings for support of social enterprises were delivered to some 150 entities, while 13 organisations were supported for investment readiness and fund raising (115,000 EUR raised through donation, 48,000 EUR as investment loan)  A Law on Social Enterprises was drafted, which was further finalized by the Working group established by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. The Law was in governmental procedure for adoption since December 2023. The Law will create legal ground for operation of the Centar for social enterprises and for a robust support to the social enterprises. | | Establishing support services for social enterprises (grants) | The projects provided small-scale grant support.to 16 social enterprising entities | | Combating discrimination by improving inclusiveness in compulsory education (grants) | The objective was to ensure that children from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have full and equal access to quality. The specific objective of this request for proposals was to help children with disabilities get into school through a scholarship programme. The objective was also to help primary schools improve access to quality education for children with disabilities. | | Grant Scheme “Facilitating social inclusion of Roma” (two grant contracts) | The projects created ground for legalization of houses in the municipality of Vinica and Suto Orizari. Both the General and Detailed urban plans for Roma settlement in the municipality of Vinica were prepared and adopted. About 20 houses of Roma families were renovated.  Similarly, the General and detailed urban plans for Roma settlement in municipality of Shuto Orizari were prepared. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problems encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1 Strengthened sector governance, policy framework and statistics | Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making (service) | / | | Improving the quality of data and strengthening policy making (supply) | The Beneficiary found the performance of the log management system (SIEM) unsatisfactory. The acceptance of the product was delayed in the attempt to resolve the issues linked to its functionality. The update of SIEM is ongoing. New version was installed with checks of all functionalities in progress. | | Development of new Education Management Information System (service) | / | | Strengthening the Social Dialogue (grant) | / | | Output 2 Equitable access to quality inclusive education at all levels | Raising the quality of pre-school education and care (Service) | (1) The delay in aligning the proposals with Beneficiary’s expectation put at risk the outstanding projects outputs, especially the legal amendments and the database upgrade. The project was suspended to address the issue.  (2) Recurrent commenting led to extended period of approval of the request for addendum, which resulted in temporal (nine months) stoppage of the implementation.  (3) Until May 2022, lockdowns and containment measures prevented field visits and affected involvement of practitioners in the project. The project has adjusted modus operandi to ensure uninterrupted implementation of the activities | | Supervision of works-construction of kindergartens in Tetovo and Tearce | Change of the Team Leader and his absence delayed obligations under the service contract. The Contractor was repeatedly reminded about the obligations under the contract. | | Construction of kindergarten in the Municipality of Tetovo (Works) | (1) There are quantities exceeding those in the BoQ (additions) approved by the Supervisor. Additional funds from national co-financing were secured for covering the additions.  (2) At the time of issuance of the provisional acceptance, it was established that there are construction activities not foreseen initially in the Bill of Quantities, but required by the national legislation. In November, the Municipality of Tetovo committed to finance the additional works.  (3) The Certificate for Provisional acceptance was issued by the Supervisor on 26 May 2023, without submitting approved project documentation stipulated under Works contract conditions. To date, the documentation, such as Warranties for equipment and Certificates of Origin of materials has not been completed yet. | | Construction of kindergarten in the Municipality of Tearce (Works) | (1) There are quantities exceeding those in the BoQ (additions) approved by the Supervisor. At the time of issuance of the provisional acceptance, it was established that there are construction activities not foreseen initially in the Bill of Quantities, but required by the national legislation. Additional funds from national co-financing will be secured for covering the additions, while the municipality will cover the additional construction works.  (2) The Municipality ensured connection of the kindergarten to electrical power system and water supply only in November, which allowed testing of installed electrical power and water supply system and equipment.  Since December 2023, the Municipality has started procuring drinking water purification system in order to provide clean water for the needs of the kindergarten. These are a precondition for issuance of both Provisional Acceptance Certificate and a permit for operation of the kindergarten.  (3) The lack of experience of the Contractor with managing EU funded project affects the project administration and this was addressed through provision of repetitive instructions and guidance. | | Activity 2.3 Further support to the implementation of the National Qualifications Framework | Change of RTA | |  |  | | Output 3 Improved employability and access to labour market and decent work | Activity 3.1 Increasing attractiveness, inclusiveness and relevance of VET and adult education |  | | Labour Market Activation of Vulnerable Groups (Direct Grant to the Employment Service Agency) | (1) Long period of agreeing the content of the grant contract addendum, preceded with several commenting rounds. The addendum was approved on 13 September 2022, which enabled resuming of all activities and measures.  (2) Lower dynamic of implementation of the activities under Component II (Support employability by trainings) in the period of review and approval of a request for the addendum. This was overcome with the addendum. The training component is now in implementation. The latest Request for addendum should additionally improve the performance of this component.  (3) Insufficient capacity and inter-institutional cooperation between social work centres and employment centres. To reinforce this, all social work centers and employment centers appointed coordinators for activation. They were instructed to implement the obligations under the social protection regulations and further guidance and trainings will follow in 2024. | | Improving the working conditions (Service) | (1) Recurrent commenting led to extended period of approval of the request for addendum, which resulted in temporal stoppage of the implementation.  (2) The project was suspended from 13 March to 18 May 2020 due to pandemics and the replacement of Team Leader. In fact, the project suffered from frequent changes of the key experts. The latest replacement of the Team Leader/ Key Expert 1 and the extension of the project duration enabled sufficient time for completion of the project outputs. | | Output 4 Improved quality and availability of social services | Supporting Modernization and De-Institutionalisation of the Social Services (Service) | / | | Together for introduction of more opportunities and respect (grant)  Supporting the resettlement of persons with intellectual disabilities from the residential institution of Demir Kapija into community based supported living settings (grant)  Getting a Life – Deinstitutionalization of Residents of Demir Kapija (grant) | The main challenge was linked to sustainability of the new supported housing services. The services got licensed and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy ensured the financing of the new services. | | Support to social enterprises (service) | Since the project closure, the Center for Social Enterprises has continued operating and providing support to civil society organization identifying themselves as social enterprises. Pending the adoption of the Law on Social Enterprises, its services will be financed from available internal sources and donor support. Since 30 July 2023, most of its activities received expert and financial support from the Polish Government. | | Establishing support services for social enterprises (grants) | Limited information is available about the two grant projects supporting social enterprises. In principle, the two grant projects could have been more responsive to the invitation of the technical assistance project and the MLSP for better coordination and for incorporating their experience in the draft Law on Social Enterprises. | | Grant Scheme “Facilitating social inclusion of Roma” (two grant contracts) | The projects were facing administrative obstacles due to the complex procedures for adoption of general and municipal urban plans which fall under competences of the municipalities. |   Audit findings in MLSP  There are four audit findings of the IPA Audit Authority (AA) and their implementation is ongoing. All IPA AA audit findings are with medium importance and those have been controlled by the IPA OS.  First, unsecured optimal number of human resources in IPA OS in the MLSP was assessed as a medium level finding in the Draft Audit Report for the implemented System Audit Mission for 2023.  Three audit findings are still active from previous system audit missions in period 2019-2022, but planned to be closed in 2024. Two active findings are linked to modifications of IPA Manual on Internal Procedure, whereby several procedures were revised and new one has been developed (fraud risk management, irregularity and reporting). The revisions to the MoP and its checklists have been informally revised, once the proposed modifications were submitted by the IPA OS and approved by the NAO/MA.  Third active finding is linked to implementation of the contract monitoring procedures, which was assessed with the medium ranking level in the System Audit Mission for 2023. The corrective activities were undertaken in 2023 and they will continue in 2024, such as organisation of on-the-spot visits and where relevant regular coordinative meetings on project level. |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | **MLSP** In the frame of its regular risks management procedure, the MLSP identified 10 risks that are still active and two risks are closed and monitored.  Measures for addressing project risks were proposed and agreed with contractors/ project beneficiaries.  However, the following major risks remain active:  (1) Delays or difficulties in the implementation of the active labour market measures lead to insufficient progress in implementation and achievement of the targets, results and utilization of the budget of the Direct Grant to the Employment Service Agency by the end of implementation period.  (2) Poor quality of the detailed project design for the new kindergartens affects the construction in terms of time and quality.  (3) Delays or difficulties in implementation of all projects and hence decreased usage of resources. As the projects and the programme are approaching their end life, the cooperation and the feedback by the beneficiaries are critical to ensure the sustainability.  (4) Lack of information sharing, no or limited decision making, insufficient collaboration in finding solutions on important issues related to projects. |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | (1) ESA must propose measures to address the systemic constrains and elaborate detailed work plan until project end. This includes accelerating activities related to capacity building on implementation of Law for Social protection due to activation of GMA recipients and improved quality of Activation plans (e.g. Organise trainings for the coordinators for activation.in the social work centers and employment centers).  It is also important to maintain support on political level for pursuing activation policy for GMA recipients and continuous iterative improvements (Adopt amendments to the Law on Social Protection that will enable the household to continue using Guaranteed Minimum Assistance, in the event one of the household members got employed).  (2) Regarding the two kindergartens, the Government decided to secure additional funding from the national budget to cover the additions resulting from the poor design quality. It is also necessary to monitor if the municipality of Tearce fulfils its commitments in regard to installing drinking water purification system (filter station) in order to provide clean water for the need of the kindergarten.  The two municipalities should proceed with the formalities for opening the kindergarten as required with the Law on Child Protection.  (3) Ensure immediate feedback by the Beneficiary in order to finalise the proposed models and legal amendments as well as upgrade of the pre-school database. If needed, ensure quick approval of the Request for no-cost addendum.  It is necessary to ensure engagement of high-level political structure to ensure their commitment to quality early childhood education and care.  (4) Intensifying the communication and projects visibility through the projects’ end. |

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2018** | |
| **Action Document “EU Integration Facility”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1.1 (direct) – Targeted EU support is provided to public administration and democratic institutions to address specific ad-hoc needs in very short time and cut red tape  Output 1.2 (direct) – Capacity of administration to address ad-hoc challenges in proved  Output 1.3 (direct) – Specific challenges of the democratic process and country accession are addressed quickly and effectively | Twinning Contract “Enhancing protection of employees in the case of insolvency of their employers” | Project finalized.  Implementation period conducted during September 2021 – May 2023.  Mandatory results delivered. | | Framework Contract “EU for Human Rights: Mainstreaming non-discrimination concepts in legislation” | Project finalized.  Implementation period conducted during September 2021 – August 2023.  Project outputs delivered. | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1.1 (direct) – Targeted EU support is provided to public administration and democratic institutions to address specific ad-hoc needs in very short time and cut red tape  Output 1.2 (direct) – Capacity of administration to address ad-hoc challenges in proved  Output 1.3 (direct) – Specific challenges of the democratic process and country accession are addressed quickly and effectively | Twinning Contract “Enhancing protection of employees in the case of insolvency of their employers” | Draft law and related by-laws were prepared on protection of employees’ rights in case of employers’ insolvency, along with analysis of the impact of the propose guarantee mechanism on existing legislation.  In addition, ESA was provided with a Functional specification and Technical Specification for the needed adjustment of ESA IT.  60 persons were trained on Protection of Employee ‘s Rights in the Event of the Bankruptcy of Their Employer". Trainings were complemented with a set of promotional materials for promotion of the social objectives of the Directive and guarantee mechanism,  The new guaranteed mechanism shall be rolled-out according to a Roadmap for establishment of guarantee mechanism prepared under the project. | | Framework Contract “EU for Human Rights: Mainstreaming non-discrimination concepts in legislation” | Proposal for amendments of five laws were prepared in order to bring them in line with the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination: Law on Criminal Code, Law on Criminal Procedure, Law on Gender Equality, Law on Labour Relations, Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination.  A total of 118 professionals from relevant ministries and institutions completed tailored training linked to prevention and protection against discrimination.  The developed Model Instruction will facilitate the Obligatory Harmonization of Laws with the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/ planned** | | Output 1.1 (direct) – Targeted EU support is provided to public administration and democratic institutions to address specific ad-hoc needs in very short time and cut red tape  Output 1.2 (direct) – Capacity of administration to address ad-hoc challenges in proved  Output 1.3 (direct) – Specific challenges of the democratic process and country accession are addressed quickly and effectively | Twinning Contract “Enhancing protection of employees in the case of insolvency of their employers” | / | | Framework Contract “EU for Human Rights: Mainstreaming non-discrimination concepts in legislation” | / | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | * Implementation of the activities of Roadmap for adoption of draft law/ legal provisions prepared on protection of employees’ rights in case of employers’ insolvency for transposition of relevant Directive 2008/94/EC and establishment of guarantee mechanism. * Further alignment of relevant laws with the Article 48 of the Law for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, as well adoption of draft legal provisions of laws prepared under the projects. |

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2019** | |
| **Action Document “EU for Inclusion”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | **This AD is implemented only under Direct Management. Information about the contract managements is to the best knowledge of the MLSP.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contracts** | **Status** | | Output 1. Improved housing, education, and economic opportunities for Roma and people living in deep poverty | Shtip and Berovo together for the improvement of living (Municipality of Stip) | Four grant contracts signed in December 2020 and their implementation ongoing. | | BAIR – Bitola’s joint Action for the Inclusion of Roma | | Facilitating Social Inclusion of Roma in Prilep | | Roma social housing program in Kichevo | | Output 2. Improved accessibility of educational facilities to persons with disabilities. | Works and supervision for improvement of education facilities | The works have been finalised; final invoice paid. Supervision has been finalised. The final report was submitted. | | Output 3. Improved access to community-based services for vulnerable groups of people. | Design and Supervision of the Works for the Transformation and Rehabilitation of the Institute Topansko Pole, Skopje | The contract was signed on 21.12.2022 and commenced in April 2023.  Resettlement of beneficiaries, re-allocation of furniture and equipment, procedures related to alienation of assets owned by the state and public institutions, temporary re-allocation of daily centres, etc, were carried out in the first quarter of 2023.  Reconstruction permit was issued in July.  Works accelerated during December 2023. | | Works contract for the Transformation and Rehabilitation of the Institute Topansko Pole, Skopje | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outcomes/ Outputs** | **Contracts** | **Status** | | Output 1. Improved housing, education, and economic opportunities for Roma and people living in deep poverty | Shtip and Berovo together for the improvement of living (Municipality of Stip) | Implementation underway.  Land parcel located and administrative procedure for its urbanization ongoing, for construction of 50 homes for Roma families. | | BAIR – Bitola’s joint Action for the Inclusion of Roma | Implementation underway.  Roma settlement legalized with detailed urban plan. | | Facilitating Social Inclusion of Roma in Prilep | Administrative procedure for urbanization of Roma settlement ongoing. | | Roma social housing program in Kichevo | Land parcel identified and renovations ongoing, pending their legalization. | | Output 2. Improved accessibility of educational facilities to persons with disabilities. | Works and supervision for improvement of education facilities | The following fifteen (15) education facilities in the Republic of North Macedonia were covered:   * Secondary Vocational School “NAUM OHRIDSKI” - OHRID * Primary School ‘’BRATSTVO-EDINSTVO’’- DEBAR * Primary School ‘’LIRIA’’- TETOVO * Secondary Vocational School ‘’GJOCE STOJCHESKI’’- TETOVO * Primary Schools ‘’BRAKЈA MILADINOVCI’’ &’’KRSTE MISIRKOV’’- KUMANOVO * Secondary Vocational School ‘’NACE BUGJONI’’- KUMANOVO * Primary School ‘’BAJRAM SHABANI’’- KUMANOVO * Secondary School “RADE JOVCHEVSKI - KORCHAGIN”- SKOPJE * UKIM - FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND CIVIL ENGINEERING – SKOPJE * UKIM - FACULTY OF LAW – SKOPJE   UKIM - FACULTY OF ECONOMICS – SKOPJE   * UKIM - FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY - SKOPJE * Primary School ‘’KUZMAN JOSIFOVSKI-PITU’’- SKOPJE (KISELA VODA) * Primary School ‘’LAZO ANGELOVSKI’’- SKOPJE (AERODROM) * YOUTH CULTURAL CENTRE – SKOPJE | | Output 3. Improved access to community-based services for vulnerable groups of people. | Design and Supervision of the Works for the Transformation and Rehabilitation of the Institute Topansko Pole, Skopje | Implementation underway. | | Works contract for the Transformation and Rehabilitation of the Institute Topansko Pole, Skopje | Implementation has commenced.  Low level of works on-site conducted. | |
| Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Outputs |  | Problems and solution | | Output 1. Improved housing, education, and economic opportunities for Roma and people living in deep poverty | Stip and Berovo together for the improvement of living (Municipality of Stip) | The grants were facing obstacles due to complex procedures for adoption of general and municipal urban plans which fall under competences of the municipalities.  Improper sequencing of administrative procedures from urbanization aspects and renovations of houses of Roma families. | | BAIR – Bitola’s joint Action for the Inclusion of Roma | | Facilitating Social Inclusion of Roma in Prilep | | Roma social housing program in Kicevo | | Output 2. Improved accessibility of educational facilities to persons with disabilities. | Works and supervision for improvement of education facilities | / | | Output 3. Improved access to community-based services for vulnerable groups of people. | Design and Supervision of the Works for the Transformation and Rehabilitation of the Institute Topansko Pole, Skopje | Delays in obtaining the reconstruction permit led to a three-month delay of the project start.  Works Contractor notified to be facing liquidity issues as its bank account was blocked by the Public Revenue Office. Pending the outcomes of the tax and court proceedings, the MLSP requested the Contracting Authority and the Contractor to implement remedial actions. | | Works contract for the Transformation and Rehabilitation of the Institute Topansko Pole, Skopje | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | Specifics of the Roma communities which in their segregation do not allow outsiders intervene in their lives and can be very resistant even to good willed interventions.  A widespread anti-Roma sentiment of the mainstream.  Local level resistance to transformation and deinstitutionalisation.  Non-respect of the national procedures by project contractors along the implementation of project activities. |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | Administrative obstacles due to conducting the procedures for adoption of general and municipal urban plans which fall under competences of the municipalities.  Sequencing of administrative procedures from urbanization aspects and renovations of houses of Roma families to be timely planned.  Provision of clear guidelines and instructions with regards to the national procedures. |

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2019** | |
| **Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth"** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract** | **Status** | | Output 1 (induced) - Improved offer of accredited VET programmes and providers | Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC) "EU for Youth" | Under implementation. An Action Plan is developed and regularly updated.  The Reginal VET Centers are already accredited for 8 qualifications. | | Output 2 (induced) - Competences of staff of the regional VET centres aligned with Human Resource Development Plans and accreditation criteria | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | Under implementation. An Action Plan is developed and regularly updated. | | Output 3 (induced) - Youth Guarantee implemented | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | SRPC has been implemented since March 2020.  National authorities progressed well with achieving three (I2, I6, I7) out of the four indicators introduced to measure the performance of the Youth Guarantee (YG). Indicator 8 was achieved in full but only in 2023. | | Output 4 (direct) - Improved policy dialogue on sector reforms | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | SRPC has been implemented since March 2020. | | Output 5 (direct) - Improved system for monitoring of the sector reforms | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | SRPC has been implemented since March 2020. | | Output 6 (direct) - Complementary support - Improved capacity of the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy and of Education and Science to coordinate, implement and monitor the EESP reform agenda with special attention to the Sector Reform Programme Contract (SRPC) | Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract ‘EU for Youth’ | The TA is under implementation since January 2021. | | Output 7 (direct) - Increased awareness of the reforms in the EESP sector among the main stakeholders, as well as the wider public in general. | Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract ‘EU for Youth’ | The TA is under implementation since January 2021. | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract** | **Main achievements and their assessment** | | Outcome 1 - To contribute to the efforts of the Government of North Macedonia to improve the quality, relevance and inclusiveness of the national vocational education and training system | Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC) "EU for Youth" | The enrolment in VET schools is increased by 2,12 % in 2022/2023 compared to the previous school year. | | Outcome 2 - To contribute to the efforts of the Government of North Macedonia to improve employment opportunities for the young women and men | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | Implementation of the Youth Guarantee contributed to decreasing the youth unemployment rates as well as the NEET rate since its introduction. EU4Youth contributed to paying special attention to its delivery in the three targeted regions as well as for improving the capacities of the employment centres. | | Output 1 (induced) - Improved offer of accredited VET programmes and providers | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | Three Regional VET centres have been established, and the accreditation process for five qualifications was completed in 2022 and 2023, while the procedure for three additional qualifications will be completed in September 2024. | | Output 2 (induced) - Competences of staff of the regional VET centres aligned with Human Resource Development Plans and accreditation criteria | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | All by-laws, including statutes, regulations, organograms, and new employee solutions, were finalised in 2021 in accordance to the modifications in the VET Law, which alloweded transformation of the three local secondary vocational schools into state-owned regional centres. Human Resource Development Plansof the RVET Centers are developed and an annex with all of the trainings completed by every employee is created. | | Output 3 (induced) - Youth Guarantee implemented | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | The Youth Guarantee was successfully implemented. To date and since the beginning of the EU4Youth Action, more than 35.000 young persons aged 15-29 enrolled the Youth Guarantee in the three targeted regions. On average 37.2% either got employed or took up some active employment measure within a four-month period. The Employment Service Agency carried out annual trainings for its staff and by now managed to refurbish 6 employment centers in the targeted regions. | | Output 4 (direct) - Improved policy dialogue on sector reforms | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | The dialogue is happening at the level of the Sector Working Group, which had two plenary sessions in 2023. Regarding the SBS “EU for Youth” (IPA 2019 programme), several meetings with MLSP, MoES, SEA, MF, ESA and EUD representatives were organised in 2023 to consider the progress of the “EU for Youth” and prepare the third self-assessment report as well as the related disbursement request. Those were the meetings of the special working group established as part of the technical coordination mechanism under the Sector Reform Contract, aiming to create a platform for capacity building of involved institutions and national experts, support the sector reform policy dialogue and ensure the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the progress of Budget Support (BS) operation. | | Output 5 (direct) - Improved system for monitoring of the sector reforms | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | The monitoring framework is established. Each strategy has measurable indicators and targets, which are monitored annually. The Performance Assessment Framework is also established and since October the process of its update and upgrade has commenced. | | Output 6 (direct) - Complementary support - Improved capacity of the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy and of Education and Science to coordinate, implement and monitor the EESP reform agenda with special attention to the Sector Reform Programme Contract (SRPC) “EU for Youth” and EU budget support programme in general. | Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract ‘EU for Youth’ | A number of capacity building trainings were implemented for the staff in the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy and of Education and Science and other public institutions in employment and education sector.  Employment Service Agency was assisted with the upgrade of the Skill Needs Analysis. | | Output 7 (direct) - Increased awareness of the reforms in the EESP sector among the main stakeholders, as well as the wider public in general. | Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract ‘EU for Youth’ | The project implemented communication activities, especially in the VET sector. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract** | **Problems and solution** | | Output 1 (induced) - Improved offer of accredited VET programmes and providers | Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC) "EU for Youth" | MES | | Output 2 (induced) - Competences of staff of the regional VET centres aligned with Human Resource Development Plans and accreditation criteria | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | MES | | Output 3 (induced) - Youth Guarantee implemented | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | The Employment Service Agency could not deliver the indicator linked to modernization of the Employment Service Centers in 2020 and 2021 due to budget cuts linked to the pandemic and during the election periods. This was reported and discussed in several occasions. To tackle the issue with the unused funds, a dialogue was lunched to set new targets for indicator 2 in year 4, which was reflected in the latest modification of the Sector Reform Contract.  As per the modified contract, 2023 target for Indicator 2 is 40; the value in December was 39.6% successful exits, i.e. a bit below the target.  To mitigate the risks, in August 2023, both MLSP and ESA requested additional funds for active measures and capital investments to be allocated in ESA’s budget in the 2023 Budget rebalance, which however did not end with positive outcome. | | Output 4 (direct) - Improved policy dialogue on sector reforms | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | / | | Output 5 (direct) - Improved system for monitoring of the sector reforms | Sector Reform Performance Contract "EU for Youth" | / | | Output 6 (direct) - Complementary support - Improved capacity of the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy and of Education and Science to coordinate, implement and monitor the EESP reform agenda with special attention to the Sector Reform Programme Contract (SRPC) “EU for Youth” and EU budget support programme in general. | Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract ‘EU for Youth’ | / | | Output 7 (direct) - Increased awareness of the reforms in the EESP sector among the main stakeholders, as well as the wider public in general. | Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract ‘EU for Youth’ | / | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | To tackle the issue with unspent funds due to low performance of several indicators, EUD launched dialogue with the Beneficiaries to set new targets for existing indicators or set new indicators in year 4 and 5, i.e. in 2023 and 2024. This was formalized with the addendum of the Sector Reform Contract. |

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2020 (performance award)** | |
| **“Strengthening of the health system and rapid response to communicable diseases”** | |
| **State of play**  **contracted** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1. Supply of equipment for response to health threats | Supply of equipment for response to health threats IPA/2021/424-256 | The contract has been finalised in 2020. | | Supply of ambulance vehicles  IPA/2023/444-309 Ares (2023) 3397354 | The contract for the supply of seven emergency medical vehicles was completed in 2023. Delivery is anticipated in 2024. | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1. Supply of equipment for response threat | Supply of equipment for response to health threats IPA/2021/424-256 | 3MRI system delivered at St. Erazmo Ohrid Hospital, General Hospital Prilep and General Hospital Strumica  5CT scanners delivered at University clinic for Pulmonology, General Hospitals in Kumanovo, Kichevo, Kavadarci and Gevgelija | | Supply of ambulance vehicles  IPA/2023/444-309 Ares (2023) 3397354 | Contract for supply of 7 emergency medical vehicles finalized in 2023. Vehicles are to be delivered to the Health center Skopje- Service for emergency health care in 2024. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1. Supply of equipment for response threat | Supply of equipment for response to health threats IPA/2021/424-256 | / | | Supply of ambulance vehicles  IPA/2023/444-309 Ares (2023) 3397354 | / | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2020** | |
| European Commission Grant Aid EU4Health: Contribution to the availability and access to vaccines against COVID-19 in the Republic of North Macedonia | |
| **State of play/**    **Implemented/Finished** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1: COVID 19 vaccines are procured for the Republic of North Macedonia | 2021/423-447 (procurement of COVID 19 vaccines) | Contract has been finalised | | Output 2: Provision of equipment, medical devices, material and consumables necessary for the delivery of the vaccines | 2021/423-447 (procurement of equipment) | Contract has been finalised on 12.05.2023 | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1: COVID 19 vaccines are procured for the Republic of North Macedonia | 2021/423-447 (procurement of COVID 19 vaccines) | Vaccines for the amount of 7,357,405 EUR provided (approx. 700.000 doses) | | Output 2: Provision of equipment, medical devices, material and consumables necessary for the delivery of the vaccines | 2021/423-447 (procurement of equipment) | Equipment, medical devices, materials and consumables necessary for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign provided (5 vaccine delivery vehicles, 8 portable vaccine carrier, 5 bio medical ultra-low T freezer 550 l at -70oC, 40 bio medical refrigerators 1000-1500 l at 2-8oC, 50 laptops, 212 plastic screens-separators, 1000 movable round chairs, 1000 stainless steel medical tables | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1: COVID 19 vaccines are procured for the Republic of North Macedonia |  | / | | Output 2: Provision of equipment, medical devices, material and consumables necessary for the delivery of the vaccines |  | / | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **IPA II EU Integration Facility 2020** | |
| Support for implementation of the health strategy 2021-2030 | |
| **State of play/**  **Implementation ongoing** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1: Assessment of the needs for development of a national comprehensive psychiatric service focused on children and adolescents | “Support for implementation of the health strategy 2021-2030” Specific Contract N° 300035269 | Implementation of the contract is ongoing | | Output 2: Feasibility study for general Hospital needs for the City of Skopje | | Output 3: Design and develop a comprehensive service framework for palliative care services and the application of medical care at home in line with best European practices | | Output 4: Feasibility study for new hospital classification system to form the basis of a more efficient and affordable hospital network | | Output 5: Evaluation of the strategic and operational financing of the health system | | Output 6: Assessment of the annual public health programs | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1: Assessment of the needs for development of a national comprehensive psychiatric service focused on children and adolescents | ‘Support for implementation of the health strategy 2021-2030” Specific Contract N° 300035269 | As a component of the contract, Output 1, which entails an assessment of the needs for developing a national comprehensive psychiatric service for children and adolescents, has been completed, and recommendations have been provided. Concerning the other outputs, the implementation of associated activities remains ongoing. | | Output 2: Feasibility study for general Hospital needs for the City of Skopje | | Output 3: Design and develop a comprehensive service framework for palliative care services and the application of medical care at home in line with best European practices | | Output 4: Feasibility study for new hospital classification system to form the basis of a more efficient and affordable hospital network | | Output 5: Evaluation of the strategic and operational financing of the health system | | Output 6: Assessment of the annual public health programs | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1: Assessment of the needs for development of a national comprehensive psychiatric service focused on children and adolescents | ‘Support for implementation of the health strategy 2021-2030” Specific Contract N° 300035269 | n/a | | Output 2: Feasibility study for general Hospital needs for the City of Skopje | | Output 3: Design and develop a comprehensive service framework for palliative care services and the application of medical care at home in line with best European practices | | Output 4: Feasibility study for new hospital classification system to form the basis of a more efficient and affordable hospital network | | Output 5: Evaluation of the strategic and operational financing of the health system | | Output 6: Assessment of the annual public health programs | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **IPA II EU Integration Facility 2020** | |
| Support to the transplant system in Republic of North Macedonia, specific contract No 300066729-SIEA-2018-17925 | |
| **State of play/**  **Implementation started** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1: Draft regulations prepared completing the alignment with the EU regulations on blood, tissue, cells and organs | Support to the transplantation system; Specific Contract No: 300066729 — SIEA-2018-1792 | Administrative order for the contract start was issued on 1.06.2023.  Implementation of the contract is ongoing | | Output 2: Developed standard operating procedures for organ and tissue banking | | Output 3: Developed organ and tissue banking software, compatible with existing IT system for blood and cells. | | Output 4: Health staff involved in the transplantation programme is trained and educated | | Output 5: Developed strategy for social integration of persons with donated organ | | Output 6: Awareness raising campaign implemented | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1: Draft regulations prepared completing the alignment with the EU regulations on blood, tissue, cells and organs | Support to the transplantation system  Specific Contract No: 300066729 — SIEA-2018-1792 | Implementation of the contract is in early stage | | Output 2: Developed standard operating procedures for organ and tissue banking | | Output 3: Developed organ and tissue banking software, compatible with existing IT system for blood and cells. | | Output 4: Health staff involved in the transplantation programme is trained and educated | | Output 5: Developed strategy for social integration of persons with donated organ | | Output 6: Awareness raising campaign implemented | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1: Draft regulations prepared completing the alignment with the EU regulations on blood, tissue, cells and organs | Support to the transplantation system  Specific Contract No: 300066729 — SIEA-2018-1792 | n/a | | Output 2: Developed standard operating procedures for organ and tissue banking | | Output 3: Developed organ and tissue banking software, compatible with existing IT system for blood and cells. | | Output 4: Health staff involved in the transplantation programme is trained and educated | | Output 5: Developed strategy for social integration of persons with donated organ | | Output 6: Awareness raising campaign implemented | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **Annual Action Plan for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2022** | |
| **EU for Improved Health, Social Protection and Gender Equality** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | **This AD is implemented only under Direct Management.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | | **Status** | | **Output 1.1 (**direct) - Increased capacities for implementation, compliance and enforcement of the OSH legislation | | Call for proposal is in preparation | | **Output 1.2** (direct) - Improved and upgraded OSH information system | | | **Output 1.3** (direct) - Promoted positive OSH culture, practices and awareness | | | **Output 2.1** (direct) - Increased availability and access to specialised and other essential social services for whoever experience gender-based violence | | Call for proposal is in preparation | | **Output 3.1** (direct) - Strengthened monitoring and quality assurance of social services at all levels | | Tender dossier is in preparation | | **Output 4.1** (direct) - Improved maternal and neonatal health | Service contract | Not started | | Supply contract | | **Output 4.2** (direct) - Improved prevention and control of oncological diseases | Service contract | Not started | | Supply contract | | **Output 4.3** (direct) - Improved quality of data management | Service contract | Not started | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Status** | | **Output 1.1 (**direct) - Increased capacities for implementation, compliance and enforcement of the OSH legislation | N/A | | **Output 1.2** (direct) - Improved and upgraded OSH information system | N/A | | **Output 1.3** (direct) - Promoted positive OSH culture, practices and awareness | N/A | | **Output 2.1** (direct) - Increased availability and access to specialised and other essential social services for whoever experience gender-based violence | N/A | | **Output 3.1** (direct) - Strengthened monitoring and quality assurance of social services at all levels | N/A | | **Output 4.1** (direct) - Improved maternal and neonatal health | N/A | | **Output 4.2** (direct) - Improved prevention and control of oncological diseases | N/A | | **Output 4.3** (direct) - Improved quality of data management | N/A | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Status** | | **Output 1.1 (**direct) - Increased capacities for implementation, compliance and enforcement of the OSH legislation | N/A | | **Output 1.2** (direct) - Improved and upgraded OSH information system | N/A | | **Output 1.3** (direct) - Promoted positive OSH culture, practices and awareness | N/A | | **Output 2.1** (direct) - Increased availability and access to specialised and other essential social services for whoever experience gender-based violence | N/A | | **Output 3.1** (direct) - Strengthened monitoring and quality assurance of social services at all levels | N/A | | **Output 4.1** (direct) - Improved maternal and neonatal health | N/A | | **Output 4.2** (direct) - Improved prevention and control of oncological diseases | N/A | | **Output 4.3** (direct) - Improved quality of data management | N/A | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

### **Thematic Priority 2: Private sector development, trade, research and innovation**

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| **Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the year 2019** | |
| **EU Supports Competitive and Fair Markets** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action, under implementation**  **Project:** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | **Output 1.** Strengthened legal alignment and enforcement in the fields of Free Movement of Goods (Chapter 1), Free Movement of Services (Chapter 3), Company Law (Chapter 6) and Chapter 28 (Consumer's rights). | Single Contract “Strengthening the Internal Market” – EuropeAid/140492?DH/SER/MK  Contact no: 2020/420-364 | Project commencement: 15 December 2020  Project kick-off: 15 December 2020  Project end date 14t of June 2024 (36 months + 6 months’ time extension (total 42 months);**alignment with the EU acquis chapter 6, as regards company law, law on accounting and law on audit:**  The project is foreseen to be ended in 6 months (June 14t 2024) but there is new requests for additional 6 months from the Beneficiaries (with the new activities) which result from the undertaken obligations of the Country within the bilateral screenings with the European Commission within the framework of the Internal Market cluster. If the request is approved by EUD the project will be ending on 14th of December 2024) | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | **Output 1.** Strengthened legal alignment and enforcement in the fields of Free Movement of Goods (Chapter 1), Free Movement of Services (Chapter 3), Company Law (Chapter 6) and Chapter 28 (Consumer's rights):  **Component 1:** To enhance the strategic, legislative and institutional framework in area of Free Movement of Goods; | Single Contract: Strengthening the Internal Market | **Component 1: Improving the strategic, legislative and administrative framework following the EU acquis on free movement of goods**  The progress made in aligning with the EU acquis on free movement of goods under **Component 1** has seen strategic and legislative advances, with the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan to further align the country's policies in this area. This involved a thorough examination of current strategies, benchmarking against successful models from neighboring countries, and engaging with stakeholders to refine and update the existing framework. Key sections of the Free Movement of Goods (FMG) strategy have been prepared, and tailored document packages have been developed for institutional discussions, culminating in a workshop to align on these strategic elements.  Additionally, a comprehensive screening of national legislation impacting free movement of goods has been conducted, leading to the creation of an action plan to address any unjustified restrictive measures, which serves as a monitoring tool for the Ministry of Economy. This action plan includes an inventory of national legal documents and administrative practices, alongside a detailed analysis of 30 national legal documents for product groups, identifying measures for revision.  In terms of consumer protection, capacity-building efforts have been made, including the development of a Consumer Protection Strategy and a pilot campaign. The project team reviewed the Consumer Protection Law, recommending amendments to over 66 articles to enhance domestic legislation. A series of meetings with the Ministry of Economy provided valuable insights, aiding the finalization of the strategy and the implementation of a campaign focused on public service provisions, with workshops planned to complete the activity. | | **Component 2:** To enhance the strategic, legislative and institutional framework in area of Free Movement of Services; |  | **Component 2: Improving the strategic, legislative, and institutional framework in area of free movement of services**  In the area of free movement of services, progress has been noted in **Component 2**, with the drafting and governmental approval of a new Action Plan aimed at eliminating discriminatory provisions and prohibited establishment requirements. This plan, which aligns with the EU Services Directive, sets the stage for legislative reforms across priority sectors. Preparatory discussions and capacity-building activities have ensured harmonization and sustainability across ministries and competent authorities, setting a clear path for future implementation.  Further efforts include the development of the Point of Single Contact (PSC), an integral part of service sector reform. The Informative Part of the PSC was developed, centralizing key business-related information and streamlining administrative processes. This development involved comprehensive data mapping, stakeholder engagement, and workshops aimed at integrating and updating content relevant to service providers. Additionally, IT support for the PSC was enhanced through a detailed Action Plan for the eUslugi governmental portal, defining objectives, tasks, and resources for the portal's development as a functional PSC. Capacity-building initiatives, including a study visit to Cyprus, provided stakeholders with insights into best practices for PSC management and maintenance, contributing to North Macedonia's efforts in harmonizing with EU service market standards. | | **Component 3:** To enhance the legislative alignment with the EU *acquis* as regards Company Law, Law on Accounting and Law on Audit; |  | **Component 3: Improving the legislative alignment with the eu acquis chapter 6, as regards company law, law on accounting and law on audit**  In **Component 3**, aimed at aligning legislation with EU acquis Chapter 6, substantial progress has been made in the fields of company law, accounting, and auditing. For the Law on Accounting, after finalizing the draft for public review, by-laws, including a new rulebook detailing the format and content of financial statements, aligning with the EU Accounting Directive, were developed. Revisions of the draft Law on Accounting were made based on feedback from the Working Group on company accounting, leading to a sixth draft version and subsequent by-laws to guide annual management reporting.  The Working Group on Accounting issued a final draft of the Law on Accounting in December 2023 for public dissemination. Additionally, a draft Guidance was produced on maintaining the integrity of documents and records as stipulated by the Law on Accounting. A compliance assessment of the national accounting legislation with the EU acquis, which included the preparation of concordance tables and a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) report were conducted.  Regarding the Company Law, feedback was addressed, received through the ENER platform and from the Ministry of Economy, holding several meetings to refine the First Draft. This led to the creation of a consolidated Second Draft Company Law, ready for public hearing and debate. The compliance assessment conducted for the Company Law produced concordance tables and an RIA report, laying the groundwork for further discussion and alignment with EU standards. | | **Component 4:** To enhance the capacity of national bodies for efficient and effective market surveillance and consumer protection; |  | **Component 4: Capacity building for efficient and effective market surveillance and consumer protection**  In **Component 4**, aimed at strengthening market surveillance and consumer protection, significant headway has been made. The completion of the Change Management Strategy marked a major achievement for enhancing the State Market Inspectorate's (SMI) reorganization. This strategy, solidified through extensive stakeholder engagement and feedback, resulted in a final report and a dissemination workshop in September 2023. Additionally, software development for market surveillance was identified as a key factor in transforming the SMI into a more information-driven regulatory body. Despite initial uncertainties, plans are underway to procure or develop IT solutions to meet SMI's needs, with a new expert being sought to lead this initiative.  A review of current SMI e-commerce practices revealed a largely reactive approach, with inspectors lacking the resources for effective market management. This was responded by developing a questionnaire, analyzing responses, and compiling a report that aligns with EU best practices and regulations, such as Regulation 2019/1020. Training for SMI inspectors was conducted to enhance their understanding and oversight of e-commerce, complemented by the creation of manuals as a reference for market surveillance.  In the area of consumer protection, North Macedonia's adoption of a new law aligned with EU directives has led to a series of workshops aimed at preparing inspectors, businesses, and consumers for the changes. Checklists, based on mandatory guidelines from the Law on Inspection Supervision, were developed to assist SMI inspectors in their daily responsibilities. Training sessions continued, focusing on risk-based conformity assessment and supervision strategies for harmonized products.  An awareness plan to engage businesses was formulated, recognizing that informed businesses are better at mitigating market risks. Detailed stakeholder analysis was conducted, leading to an understanding of business needs and shaping recommendations for future engagement strategies. In parallel, the web portal was reviewed, and a conceptual framework proposed to disseminate consumer protection information effectively. Awareness materials were created, with the aim of enhancing consumer knowledge and protection, and workshops were organized across various cities to educate economic operators on the latest legal framework for consumer protection. These concerted efforts underline a commitment to improving market surveillance and consumer protection mechanisms in line with EU standards. | | **Component 5:** To enhance the capacity of BoM to execute testing, verification, and calibration services. |  | **Component 5: Capacity building to bom to efficiently execute testing, verification and calibration services**  **Component 5** has seen strides in enhancing the Bureau of Metrology's (BoM) capacity to efficiently carry out testing, verification, and calibration services. In the area focused on the transposition of the New Approach Directives for Weighing Instruments (NAWI) and Measuring Instruments Directive (MID), new drafts of technical regulations, including Tables of Concordance (ToCs), were prepared.  The dissemination and traceability of dimensional (SI measurement) units were addressed. This involved drafting procedures for handling, using, and maintaining various measuring instruments and training in metrology statistics. Lectures were provided on measurement uncertainty and the traceability routes from high-level standards to working standards, such as gauge blocks and setting rings. The purpose of calibration procedures and their typical contents were also explained.  Practical training for BoM staff was a key focus, covering proper maintenance of length metrology equipment and standards, hands-on cleaning of gauge blocks, and inspection and maintenance of vernier callipers, micrometres, height gauges, and dial gauges. Additionally, training on calculating and interpreting repeatability and renewability of measurement results was provided to compare various measurement outcomes effectively. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | **Output 1.** Strengthened legal alignment and enforcement in the fields of Free Movement of Goods (Chapter 1), Free Movement of Services (Chapter 3), Company Law (Chapter 6) and Chapter 28 (Consumer's rights). | Strengthening the Internal Market | N/A | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **“Corporate Social responsibility and Business Angels - driving force for private sector development”**  **FWC nr. 310000011 — SIEA 2018** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | Output 1: Developing policy framework for further improvement of the corporate social responsibility in companies | “Corporate Social responsibility and Business Angels - driving force for private sector development”  FWC nr. 310000011 — SIEA 2018  Contract Nr. - 300064081 — SIEA-2018-17809 | In 2023, the European Union Delegation (EUD) and the main beneficiary, the Ministry of Economy, developed and published the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a project in April. This project, aimed at enhancing the competitive abilities of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in developed markets, was officially initiated on June 5th, 2023, following the contract signing by the Delegation. The project's inception period lasted 30 days, concluding with the first Interim Report on December 5th, 2023. | | Output 2: Creating favorable ecosystem for business angels including | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | Output 1: Developing policy framework for further improvement of the corporate social responsibility in companies | “Corporate Social responsibility and Business Angels - driving force for private sector development”  FWC nr. 310000011 — SIEA 2018  Contract Nr. - 300064081 — SIEA-2018-17809 | The project's primary goal is to foster a conducive environment for business angels and venture investors and to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) within companies. This includes a focus on integrating persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and advancing gender equality. The project is structured around two main components: the first involves developing a policy framework to enhance CSR in companies, and the second focuses on creating a favorable ecosystem for business angels.  As of the latest updates, all project activities are progressing as planned. | | Output 2: Creating favorable ecosystem for business angels including | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | Output 1: Developing policy framework for further improvement of the corporate social responsibility in companies | FwC: Corporate Social responsibility and Business Angels - driving force for private sector development | So far, the project did not encounter any problems that would create an negative effect for its implementation. | | Output 2: Creating favorable ecosystem for business angels including | Same as the above | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

### **Thematic Priority 3: Agriculture and rural development and Thematic Priority 4: Fisheries**

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| **Annual Action Programme for Republic of North Macedonia for Year 2019** | |
| **Action Document “EU supports Rural Development and Competitive Sustainable Agriculture”** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | **Output 1: Modernized and optimized farming and forestry**  Activity 1: Modernization of the advisory services for operators in the agriculture field IPA 2019 | Service: Modernisation of the Advisory Services for Operators in the Agriculture Field in North Macedonia | The project began on January 31, 2022, and will continue for 27 months.  The project is extended until April 30th, 2024. | | Activity 2: Support to modernization and innovative management in agricultural sector | Grant: Support to modernization and innovative management in agricultural sector (cooperatives) | This is an ongoing project with two grants that began in February 2023:   * Lot 1 (Makedonska Razvojna Fondacija za Pretprijatija) * Lot 2 (Zdruzhenie za Unapreduvanje na Zemjodelski Zadrugi Makedonska Asocijacija na Zemjodelskite Zadrugi (MAZZ) | | Activity 3: Enhancing land consolidation | Service: Enhancing land consolidation | Ongoing - Duration of the project 42 months (August 2022 - January 2026) | | Activity 4: Construction of five small scale irrigation systems | Works: Construction of three small-scale irrigation systems  Service: Supervision of construction of small scale irrigation system | The project started in January 2022.   * LOT 1 – Construction of a diversion structure on the Bistrica river and an irrigation network in the agriculture area of the village of Tearce. * Duration: 30 months. * Status: 90% complete. * LOT 2 – Construction of a small-scale irrigation system in the village of Pishica. * Duration: 30 months. * Status: 100% complete as of November 30, 2022. The Provisional Acceptance Certificate was issued on March 6, 2023, which officially acknowledges the completion and satisfactory execution of the project. * LOT 3 – Construction of an intake structure on the Krivo Moste river and an irrigation network in the agriculture area of the village of Konopnica. * Duration: 30 months.   Status: 100% complete. | | Activity 5: Strengthening the management of the forestry sector | Service: Strengthening the management of the forestry sector | Ongoing  Started on 09 March 2023  Project duration is 24 months  Project end date 08 March 2025 | | **Output 2: Decreased risks to human, animal and plant health**  Activity 6: Improvements of food safety standards, legislation and control systems | FwC: Improved animal disease control and implementation of the food safety system | Ongoing  The project started on 17th of April 2023. Addendum of the contract for extension and approval of experts is signed. The contract is extended to February 2024. Another request for extension until April 2024 is submitted to DEU with request for additional financial approval. | | Activity 7: Construction of a Rendering Plant | Works | Ongoing  The official start of the project was 10 August 2023 | | Activity 8: Harmonization of the Phytosanitary legislation and introduction of best practices on plant protection | Twinning: Improvement of the administrative and operational capacities of the plant protection authorities | Ongoing  The project began on 01.02.2022, extended 3 months from the official end date 31.10.2023, final event will be held on February | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | **Output 1: Modernized and optimized farming and forestry**  Activity 1: Modernization of the advisory services for operators in the agriculture field IPA 2019 | Service: Modernisation of the Advisory Services for Operators in the Agriculture Field in North Macedonia | * The new law for the Advisory System for Agriculture and Rural Development in North Macedonia is enacted on 11.12.2023 * The drafting and structure of the by-laws resulting from the law were defined, for which a workshop would be held in February, since the Working Group working on the project is in a wider composition, including representatives of associations. * The date for awarding the certificates from the conducted trainings has been determined, namely January 25, 2024. 91 advisors will receive a certificate for attended training, and the law is well defined * Design and develop an IT system for M&E of the advisory services which are provided by NEA and private advisors * Contracted of selected service provider, follows: ASARD IT M&E system delivery, system installation and testing, as well as training of end users. * Finalization of assessment report of the advisory services in North Macedonia * E-catalogue of services for farmers and operators in agriculture approved by the beneficiary and included as part of the developed IT system | | Activity 2: Support to modernization and innovative management in agricultural sector | Grant: Support to modernization and innovative management in agricultural sector (cooperatives) | The primary achievement is the initiation of two grant-funded projects aimed at supporting modernization and innovative management in the agricultural sector, specifically targeting cooperatives. These projects began in February 2023:   * **LOT 1 (**MAKEDONSKA RAZVOJNA FONDACIJA ZA PRETPRIJATIJA) * **LOT 2** (ZDRUZHENIE ZA UNAPREDUVANJE NA ZEMJODELSKI ZADRUGI MAKEDONSKA ASOCIJACIJA NA ZEMJODELSKITE ZADRUGI (MAZZ)   As the projects started in February 2023, the full impact and success of these initiatives would become more evident as the projects progress and reach their later stages. | | Activity 3: Enhancing land consolidation | Service: Enhancing land consolidation | * Technical preparations for interviews i.e. preparation of maps and lists of parcels for individual landowners - ongoing. * Project outputs: Policy, legal and institutional framework for land consolidation enhanced Implemented / ongoing activities:   + Desk review of the national policies, legislation and programmes related to land consolidation and assess the results achieved in the previous strategic period (2012 – 2020) – drafted, undergoing internal review;   + Policy Note on multi-purpose land consolidation – ongoing; * Project outputs: Awareness and understanding of land consolidation increased and capacity of relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries strengthened - Implemented / ongoing activities:   + Preparation of Project brochure– ongoing;   + Project web page – ongoing;   + First issue of print newsletter for landowners in Chiflik– in phase of design. | | Activity 4: Construction of five small scale irrigation systems | Works: Construction of three small-scale irrigation systems  Service: Supervision of construction of small scale irrigation system | * LOT 1 – Construction of diversion structure on Bistrica river and irrigation network in the agriculture area of the village of Tearce (30 months) - Summary Progress - 90.00%. This high percentage of completion within the 30-month timeframe indicates effective project management and progress * LOT 2 – Construction of small scale irrigation system in village of Pishica (30 months) - The works are completed 100%, on 30.11.2022. The Provisional Acceptance Certificate is issued on 06.03.2023. The Provisional Acceptance Certificate signifies official recognition of the project's completion and adherence to required standards. * LOT 3 – Construction of intake structure on Krivo Moste river and irrigation network in the agriculture area of the village of Konopnica (30 months) - Summary Progress - 100.00%. This demonstrates efficient execution and completion of the project within the planned duration. | | Activity 5: Strengthening the management of the forestry sector | Service: Strengthening the management of the forestry sector | * The drafted new Law on Forests was agreed with stakeholders during the organized workshops (2 in Skopje and 4 regional) and is uploaded on ENER. * The drafted Forest Agency was agreed among stakeholders and uploaded on ENER together with the new Law on Forests * The Governmental Decision for transformation of PE "National Forests" (PENF) into a State Forest Company LLC. (SFC) was elaborated and agreed. The final draft is provided to the Beneficiaries. * Tender procedures on National Forest Inventory (NFI) completed. | | Output 2: Decreased risks to human, animal and plant health  Activity 6: Improvements of food safety standards, legislation and control systems | FwC: Improved animal disease control and implementation of the food safety system | Addendum of the contract for extension is signed. The contract is extended to April 2024.  The activities of the Project are being implemented according to the work plan.  - Component 1: Efficient enforcement of animal disease control system;  Preparation of revised protocols and other operative documents for implementation of EU animal health Law and corresponding legislation. Improved reporting by the involved parties (farmers, veterinary practitioners, official veterinarians, etc. Improved system for early detection and emergency preparedness, existing contingency plans and operational manuals revised, revision and adaptation of surveillance and control programme for brucellosis in sheep and goats  - Component 2: Strengthening the capacity of food safety area;  The knowledge and skills of FVA employees are improved regarding food contact materials, training provided, revision of checklists. Support of FVA and FBO’s to increase the knowledge in defining the shelf life of the food, detailed guidance prepared and approved by the beneficiary  - Component 3: Improved official controls system;  Improved system for passive and active surveillance of animal diseases, integration and coordination of official controls between animal health and veterinary public health, prepared assessments of official controls  - Component 4: Improved data collection and risk assessment system.  The system for collection, storage and processing of data is improved. Analysis of the current status is carried out and methodology for data collection, reporting system, processing and analysis of data from official controls and data from other sources is prepared. Data on average daily intake of certain individual food products is obtained. Study tour implemented | | Activity 7: Construction of a Rendering Plant | Works | Activity 7, involving the construction of a Rendering Plant, is in its initial stages with a company selected to implement the project, having started administrative tasks such as planning and obtaining necessary permits. The project is currently focused on identifying suitable sites, with three potential locations under consideration. Involvement from key stakeholders is evident, as the FVA is scheduled to meet with the World Bank and inform the DEU, indicating the project's early-stage development. | | Activity 8: Harmonization of the Phytosanitary legislation and introduction of best practices on plant protection | Twinning: Improvement of the administrative and operational capacities of the plant protection authorities | Plant Health   * Further drafting of PHL to be aligned with the relevant acquis, including the provisions of the Reg. (EU) 2017/625 on official controls.   Seed and Planting Material   * Revision of draft Law on Seed and Seedlings   Plant Protection Products   * Revision and updating draft of the NAP for sustainable use of PPPs;   Communication of pest risk and crisis management   * Recommendation for official website, communication and information sharing by sectors: Preparation of technical specification for LIMS in SPL, with Technical support for IT platform.   Official controls in the market and production   * Preparation of SOP for sampling of plants, plant products and other objects, including WPM | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | **Output 1: Modernized and optimized farming and forestry**  Activity 1: Modernization of the advisory services for operators in the agriculture field IPA 2019 | Service: Modernization of the advisory services for operators in the agriculture field | / | | Activity 2: Support to modernization and innovative management in agricultural sector | Grant: Support to modernization and innovative management in agricultural sector (cooperatives) | / | | Activity 3: Enhancing land consolidation | Service: Enhancing land consolidation | / | | Activity 4: Construction of five small scale irrigation systems | Works: Construction of three small-scale irrigation systems  Service: Supervision of construction of small scale irrigation system | / | | Activity 5: Strengthening the management of the forestry sector | Service: Strengthening the management of the forestry sector | / | | **Output 2: Decreased risks to human, animal and plant health**  Activity 6: Improvements of food safety standards, legislation and control systems | FwC: Improved animal disease control and implementation of the food safety system | / | | Activity 7: Construction of a Rendering Plant | Works | / | | Activity 8: Harmonization of the Phytosanitary legislation and introduction of best practices on plant protection | Twinning: Improvement of the administrative and operational capacities of the plant protection authorities | / | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | ***Project title:* *Modernisation of the Advisory Services for Operators in the Agriculture Field in North Macedonia***   * No problems occurred generally this project is a successful example but sustainability from national support must be secured after completion of the project. |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | ***Project title: Modernisation of the Advisory Services for Operators in the Agriculture Field in North Macedonia***   * The Unit capacity in MAFWE need to be strengthened. |

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| **Financing Agreement for the Annual Action Programme for the Republic of North Macedonia for the Year 2020** | |
| **EU Integration facility** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract titl** | **Status** | | To enhance the alignment with the EU *acquis* and EU/International Standards including legal enforcement | Alignment of Legislation and Implementation of the Union Acquis in the Area of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Republic of North Macedonia | The project began on May 9, 2022, end date March 1st 2023 | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | To enhance the alignment with the EU *acquis* and EU/International Standards including legal enforcement | Alignment of Legislation and Implementation of the Union Acquis in the Area of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Republic of North Macedonia | The Rulebook(s) on fishery and aquaculture product marketing standards were completed and the related indicator was achieved. Rulebook is translated.  Rules for recognition producer and inter branch organizations in accordance with EU requirements have been established.  New Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture passed the first reading in the Parliament on 15.01.2024  New legal act(s) for structural support and state aid are prepared.  Final event was held on the March 1st 2023 | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | To enhance the alignment with the EU *acquis* and EU/International Standards including legal enforcement | Alignment of Legislation and Implementation of the Union Acquis in the Area of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Republic of North Macedonia | / | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | N/A |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | N/A |

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| **Annual Action Plan in favour of North Macedonia for 2021** | |
| **EU for Green Economy** | |
| **State of play/ Progress for particular action (e.g. ToR in preparation, tender launched, contracted, under implementation, completed)** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Status** | | **Output 2: Enhanced cooperation and position of farmers in supply chain**  Activity 2.1: Implementation of Common Market Organization (CMO) measures |  | Not started | | Activity 2.2: Enhancing the self-organisation of farmers in creation and management of small-scale irrigation systems | Direct Grant: Enhancing cooperation and position of farmers in supply chain | DIRECT GRANT  In preparation – focus on development of grant application | |
| **Main achievements and their assessment** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Main achievements and assessment** | | **Output 2: Enhanced cooperation and position of farmers in supply chain**  Activity 2.1: Implementation of Common Market Organization (CMO) measures |  | N/A | | Activity 2.2: Enhancing the self-organisation of farmers in creation and management of small-scale irrigation systems | Direct Grant: Enhancing cooperation and position of farmers in supply chain | Expert was provided in order to help with the Grant Application.  Working Group was established (for the preparation of Grant Application).  Two expert missions were realized in period 3-7 July and 18-20 September 2023. Draft application was prepared and sent to DEU for comments. | |
| **Significant problems encountered and the measures taken/planned to overcome them** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Outputs** | **Contract title** | **Problem encountered and measures taken/planned** | | **Output 2: Enhanced cooperation and position of farmers in supply chain**  Activity 2.1: Implementation of Common Market Organization (CMO) measures |  | N/A | | Activity 2.2: Enhancing the self-organisation of farmers in creation and management of small-scale irrigation systems | Direct Grant: Enhancing cooperation and position of farmers in supply chain | n/a | |
| **Developments and/or identified risks that influence future implementation and the achievement of the objectives** | n/a |
| **Recommendations for corrective further actions** | n/a |